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REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended better to distinguish the claimed invention over the cited art. Claim 1 now specifies that the impermeable layer is provided between the ceramic honeycomb structure and the metal case. The Examiner is referred to Fig. 1(D) where such an arrangement is clearly shown. The claims before the Examiner for consideration remain claims 1 to 11.

The non-elected claims have been canceled; applicants will rely upon the protections afforded by 35 USC 121 regarding any divisional application that may be filed.

Minor changes have been made in claims 6 to 8 to provide proper correspondence to language in an earlier claim.

The rejection of claims 1, 4, and 5 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Sussmilch et al. '437, if applied to the claims as amended, is respectfully traversed. The end cap 142 in the reference device is not provided between the ceramic honeycomb structure and the metal case as required by the revised claim. The rejection should be withdrawn.

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The rejection of claims 2 and 10 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Sussmilch et al. '437, the rejection of claim 3 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Sussmilch et al. '437 in view of Rosynsky et al. '864, the rejection of claims 6, 8, and 9 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Sussmilch et al. '437 in view of Close et al. '865, the rejection claim 7 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Sussmilch et al. '437 in view of Harding '498, and the rejection of claim 11 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Sussmilch et al. '437 in view of Machida et al. '089 are respectfully traversed. The references do not teach or suggest the arrangement of claim 1 or the other embodiments recited in the dependent claims. The rejections should be withdrawn.

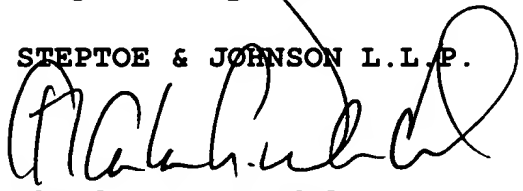
The citation of additional art to show diesel particulate filters is acknowledged. It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended patentably define over the cited art of record.

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The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if additional changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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